

*EMIGRATION TO CANADA.*

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NARRATIVE

OF A

**VOYAGE TO QUEBEC,**

AND JOURNEY FROM THENCE TO

NEW LANARK,

IN

**UPPER CANADA.**

DETAILING THE HARDSHIPS AND DIFFICULTIES WHICH AN  
EMIGRANT HAS TO ENCOUNTER, BEFORE AND  
AFTER HIS SETTLEMENT;

With an Account of the Country,  
AS IT REGARDS ITS CLIMATE, SOIL, AND THE ACTUAL  
CONDITION OF ITS INHABITANTS.

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By JOHN M'DONALD.  
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## INTRODUCTION.

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AN emigrant to Upper Canada, who went out in the ship David of London, in company with other passengers destined for the same country, having kept a diary or journal of the voyage across the Atlantic, up the St Laurence, and of his journey into the interior, after leaving the banks of the river, considers it his duty to give every anxious (and he knows there are many) inquirer an accurate and faithful statement of such facts as came within the sphere of his own observation, as well as what he could learn from the information of such settlers as had lately arrived. In this short narrative the reader will find a faithful and impartial account of the hardships through which our unhappy and deluded countrymen are doomed to pass, the privations they must undergo, the sufferings they must endure, with the deplorable consequences resulting from these, before they can be settled in their cold, comfortless, and solitary log-house. The reader will see both sides of the picture—the advantages and disadvantages; and that although eventually the speculation may turn out, in some degree, according to the hopes and wishes of those who emigrate, and who are endowed with perseverance and fortitude, as well as physical strength of constitution, to overcome the difficulties incidental to a new settlement, yet still it is by no means that ideal paradise which it is represented to be, of which it is to be feared too many by this time sadly convinced; and justifying the observation of an intelligent fellow countryman, “that all the truth which had both been written and printed respecting Upper Canada, would not cover one-half of the lies which have been told.”

*Glasgow, November 1821.*

# NARRATIVE,

&c.

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**H**AVING, with many of my countrymen, determined to embark for Canada, little dreaming, from the flattering accounts which had been so industriously published respecting that country, of the hardships attending such an undertaking, I left Glasgow for Greenock, to embark on board the ship *David* of London, for Quebec, amongst with nearly 400 other passengers, where, having gone through the necessary steps at the custom-house, we left the quay on the 19th of May 1821. A steam boat dragged the ship to the tail of the bank, and the wind being favourable we immediately sailed, and in 28 hours lost sight of land. Having a fair wind for this space of time, with fine agreeable weather, we enjoyed the pleasure of walking on deck, and beholding the calm unruffled face of the deep, which, combined with the bold, rugged, and romantic appearance of the coasts bordering on both sides of the frith, presented scenes that were truly delightful. But alas! the picture was soon reversed. The wind rose, a heavy gale commenced, and the waves rolled mountains high, and made a mighty noise. To see a ship making her way in the midst of a storm, over these lofty billows, is both grand and awful. We now became like drunken men, reeling and staggering to and fro. To walk on deck was impossible, and the places where the pots were erected for cooking, tumbled down, so that we could not get any victuals made ready, and some of our associates were compelled to mix a little meal and molasses, and use this composition as a substitute for better fare. The comparative want of food, and the storm together, rendered us very weak. This storm continued nine days. The captain affirmed, that he had never witnessed a tempest

of such long continuance at that season of the year. During the rest of our voyage, we had stormy days now and then, but none to be compared to the former, either in degree or duration. Several times many of our company got themselves drenched with the waves of a heavy rolling sea breaking over the deck, and which also entering the hatch-hole, wetted us very much. On this account, we were completely shut up in the hold. At the commencement of the storm the weather became very cold. This circumstance, providentially, was greatly in our favour, from our being so much crowded together, which in several respects was very disagreeable to our feelings. This cold state of the weather continued till we approached the mouth of the St Laurence, when it became so warm, that I was nearly suffocated from the smell and heat below deck. I was consequently compelled to sleep on deck, together with many others, who were in a similar situation. Every favourable day the Captain ordered all his passengers to bring up their clothes and air them. The sick passengers were also all ordered above, those who were unable being assisted. The Captain was much afraid lest an infectious fever should get in amongst us, and he himself, after landing at Quebec, was confined for some time by severe indisposition. Four births took place during our passage, but three of the children died, and a boy of four years old ; another fell from the deck into the hold, and broke his arm ; and had not he fallen upon some persons who were providentially at that time in that place, the event would probably have been much more serious. Having entered the Gulph of St Laurence, we found it necessary to obtain a pilot. The weather now became warmer, and as the wind was a-head of us, our rate of sailing became slower, and we had to cast anchor several times. This change in our rate of sail-



ing, was greatly in the favour of such passengers as were sick, as they all recovered quickly. This was a very happy circumstance, there being no impediment to prevent our landing ; the surgeon having declared that there was no fever amongst us. We consequently got all in at once, and having anchored, the Captain and several of the passengers went ashore, having ordered the Mate not to suffer any ardent spirits to be brought on board. Nevertheless, some of the passengers who had gone ashore, returned with some rum, which was taken from them and thrown over board. This circumstance caused no small disturbance, and produced blows between the sailors and the passengers, and even also amongst the sailors themselves ; and till the scuffle terminated it was indeed a very disorderly night. We arrived at Quebec on the 25th of June, when we were all inspected by the surgeon, and then passed through the custom-house. We all slept that night on board, and by 6 o'clock in the morning the steam boat was laid along side of us, when we all set to work to get our luggage on board of it. We continued all that day at Quebec, and then went off in the steam boat at 11 o'clock at night. As we were setting out, a tremendous storm of thunder and lightning came on, the most dreadful that ever I either saw or heard ; the rain was also uncommonly heavy. There were nearly 400 people on board of the steam boat, the greater part of whom were obliged to sit on deck all that night. Reader, you may easily guess our situation. I can assure you, I myself and the greater part of all who were on deck were as thoroughly drenched as water could make us, and had to remain, drenched as we were, in our clothes, till they dried on our backs. As a substitute, access to our chests had been refused, they were all locked up in the hold, so that we continued till we reached

Here we arrived in 24 hours, a distance of 190 miles. Having stated our difficulties on the passage from Quebec to Montreal, I may add, that this was the first of our trials in going up the country; and I can safely aver, to my certain knowledge, that it was the source and cause of their trouble who are now no more in this world. Nay, to show you further our distress, the beds of those passengers who were stationed on the lee side of the boat, between the engine-house and the paddles, were made literally to swim with the rain water. Every thing was spoiled, our very meal and bread being reduced to a state of dough. We now began to carry our luggage from the steam boat, Government having provided waggons in abundance. We mutually assisted each other in loading them with the women and children; and all who were unable to walk got on the top of them as far as the village of La Chine, ten miles up the St Laurence from Montreal. Here we arrived on the 28th of June, and remained 4 days, till we got as many boats as we required. We then set out all together in 15 flat-bottomed boats. Our number amounted to 366 persons. Here a very difficult part of our journey commenced, namely, the passing the rapids of the St Laurence. Some of these have a very strong current, and as the stream is very shallow and stoney, the boats sometimes grounded. Then all the men who were able were necessitated to jump into the river to haul the boats, wading up to the middle of their bodies, and sometimes deeper. At these rapids the women and children were obliged to come out and walk; and in several places, the rapids ran with such a force, that we were compelled to get out and haul every boat. None but those who have seen it can conceive the difficulty of ascending. It seems wonderful how they could have done any of our unhappy country-

men suffered extremely from these hardships, on account of the intense heat of the season, and drinking too freely of the river water. In addition to these difficulties, being destitute of dry clothes, we were obliged to continue in this uncomfortable situation night and day. Many of them took badly on the road, and were obliged to remain behind their families many days. This became a very distressing circumstance to them, in going up the river. When night came, we remained on the river side. Sometimes we got access to farm houses, and sometimes not. Others lay in the woods all night, where, having kindled a fire, they would have cooked their supper in the best way they could, and spread such clothes under them as they had, for a bed. In which situation I have found in the morning my night-cap, blankets, and mat, so soaked with dew, that they might have been wrung. One may easily conceive that this was very prejudicial to our health. Some of the passengers indeed got into barns, but by far the most part of them lodged out in the fields for six nights, in which space of time we made our journey from La Chine to Prescott, which is 120 miles. There we had to pitch our tent in the best way we could, in the open field—wretched dwellings indeed! One may easily judge of our situation, from this circumstance, that frequently we were under the necessity, many of us, of spending the whole night in laving the water with dishes from around our tents, which literally ran below our very beds. Here we began soon to feel the effects of our river journey, and of our lying out in the fields. There were none, I believe, but felt these in a greater or less degree. Many were afflicted with the bloody flux, some also took fevers, and many died of a few days illness. Our situation now became very alarming, the people generally complaining of indis-



position. I continued here three weeks. This was the end of our water conveyance. The cause of our delay here arose from the great multitude that were lying at this place before our arrival. Here we found one half of the passengers of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, all those of the ship Commerce, and including us, the passengers of the ship David of London, the whole exceeded 1000 people; and it took a long time to carry their baggage along a road of 74 miles to New Lanark. We all had, each society, to wait its turn in getting away. Many were obliged to remain here on account of sickness, and many died. William Purdie, agent for the Trongate Society, died here, and two families were left orphans; the one belonged to Bridgeton, the other to Bathgate, of the name of Dick. This man was bathing in the St Laurence, where he first stopped at La Chine. He had gone beyond his depth into the stream, and the velocity of the current swept him away. He left 9 or 10 children. The former family consisted of two children, whose mother died on the passage in the ship Commerce.

Prescot is a fine little town, and daily increasing—it is a military station. Two churches are building here, the one an episcopal chapel, the other a presbyterian meeting-house. The only place of worship, as far as I could learn, which previously existed, was a school-house, the master of which gave a discourse in the forenoon to the few who attended. It is, however, seriously to be lamented, that the Sabbath, the holy and honourable of the Lord, is so little respected there. Many were employed in singing, in playing on flutes, and drinking. A few of us asked the school-house for the purpose of religious worship, which was readily granted, and each took his turn. We met here three Sabbath-days, and sung the Lord's song, read his word, and approached his throne



of grace, pleading the fulfilment of his gracious promise, that where two or three are met together in his name, and according to his appointment, he will be in the midst of them to bless them and to do them good. We found those days to be the most pleasant of all the days we spent in a foreign land. The majority of the inhabitants are Irish and French, and increasing fast. Here the mail-coach stops, this being the only road to Kingston, which is 62 miles straight up the river. We left Prescott on Monday the 30th July at 9 o'clock, and travelled six miles that night, and stopt at an inn. Here we took in our clothes, and slept all night on the floor. Got up next morning by break of day, and arrived at Brockville, 6 miles distant, and breakfasted there. This is another little neat town on the river side, and said to be advancing in population. It contains several fine buildings, some of wood, and others of brick. We stopt one hour only at this place. We went no farther up the river, but struck back through the country. The next night we stopt at a farmer's house, where we slept in the barn, amongst new hay, in which we felt some reptiles, and were afraid of snakes, having seen many of them on the road.

Here we tarried for our driver, waiting 3 hours for him, and at last he came with a fresh horse, one of his horses being knocked up the preceding night. We then set forward, and as we advanced, the road became worse, and towards night it became so rough, that the horse was unfit to proceed ; but fortunately we got another waggoner to take the load, the drivers having made a mutual agreement betwixt themselves. We then advanced four miles farther, under the cloud of night, when we arrived at the driver's house, where we took in our bed-clothes, and got some supper made ready for us, as we stood very much in need of it.— We were allowed to sleep on the floor, and having got

up early next morning, expected to have departed directly, but were detained till breakfast, when we again set out, having still the same horse, but provided with another driver. This man was very attentive in avoiding every bad place of the road, to prevent his waggon from overturning, in which he was completely successful, as it never once overset. But this was not the case with many waggons, which were overturned with men, women, and children. One boy was killed on the spot, several were very much hurt; one man got his arm broken, and our own waggoner, in spite of all his care and skill, was baffled, his horse having laired in a miry part of the road, where he stuck fast, and even after he was loosed from the yoke the poor animal strove so much to no purpose, that he fell down in a state of complete exhaustion three times in the mire. The mire was so tenacious, being a tough clay, that we were compelled to disengage his feet from the clay with hand spokes, before we got him freed, and yet still he struggled long to get our waggon out of the mire, but in vain; when fortunately a team of oxen came forward, which the owner loosed from the yoke and fastened to our waggon. With these, and the horse together, the waggon was at length pulled out, and then we got on. Soon after this misfortune a great quantity of rain fell, which wetted us very much, and made us glad to creep away to the first farm house we could get. There we obtained lodging, but our bed-clothes were all so wet that we were obliged to dry them before a fire which we obtained, and to lie at the fire-side all night.

Next morning, we got up early, and again set forward, hastening to the end of our journey. When we came again to the road, it appeared so very bad, that it put us to a complete stand, seeing no way of getting through it. We at last concluded, that the only al-

ternative left us, was to pull up the farmers' fences, which we did in two places, and thus got through, and then closed them up again. This was a new mode of travelling to us, but the only one by which we could at all hope to get through. Every now and then we were compelled to cut down the fences, as it was wholly a region of woods through which we had to pass, except some places occupied by farm-houses; spots cleared here and there in the midst of this immense forest. Wherever there was a spot cleared, there was commonly a farm house near it, the one indicating the other, and what was still more fortunate, a house or inn. As we approached New Perth, the road gradually improved, and the driver of course, desired some of us to go up into the waggon, and get a ride, which I accordingly did, being much fatigued. But as I was standing in the waggon, the horses advanced a step, and I fell out of the vehicle on my back, and broke one of my ribs by lighting on a small stone. By this accident I was very much bruised, and it was a great mercy that I was not killed on the spot, the road being stony. In such a piteous plight, I arrived at Perth, and immediately applied to a surgeon for medical aid, who advised me to bathe the injured part with vinegar, and bind it close and hard, which I did, and slept all night in a stable, the only convenience we could procure for that purpose. A great many of my fellow travellers to this land of promise, remained here, some on account of sickness and fatigue, and others because the horse being knocked up could go no farther.

Perth is a thriving place, and daily increasing in population. Here are two churches, the one a Presbyterian meeting house, and the other a Roman Catholic chapel. There are also two bakers, several store-keepers, two or three smiths, and a post-office. I read a

very long list of names affixed to the door of the office, mentioning those for whom letters were lying there. The post goes no farther than this place, but a similar list, for the same purpose, is also affixed to the door of the King's store at New Lanark. In such a thinly peopled district, and where other means of communication are so difficult, such a practice is absolutely necessary. We left Perth next morning, which is 14 miles from New Lanark, and came to a large stream, called the Little Mississippi, over which we had to ferry. I then saw a tent, the people of which told us, that the reason why they were stopping there, was the superior salubrity of the situation, it being on the river side, and thus enjoying a freer air.

Having advanced within 2 miles of New Lanark, on the 4th of August, we were informed that the settlers were getting a deal worse, and that no less than four of a family were sick at the same time. I have known a whole family afflicted with the fever successively before it left them. The reason of this is clear and obvious to those who will be at the necessary pains to think and investigate, namely, the immensity and closeness of the woods that surround them. Through these impervious forests no wind possibly can penetrate, and there is consequently no circulation. The people live in the midst of a stagnant atmosphere, never rarified by the solar rays, and never replaced by a purer current, thus continually inhaling a corrupted atmosphere, fevers and agues are the inevitable result. Instead of wondering why so many are thus afflicted, and that so much misery and distress prevail, the wonder ought rather to be, that the half of them, at least, are not dead. Reader, pause a little whilst reading this tale of woe, and consider for a moment the deplorable state of your unhappy, unthinking, and deluded countrymen, thus exposed for 8 weeks to the



noisome exhalations of immense woods, the excessive and rapid variations of a Canadian climate, and the excessive humidity of an American atmosphere; without any shelter from the inclemencies of the sky, the heavy and unwholesome dews, and the rains and the winds, (to which latter there is nothing of a similar nature parallel in this country,) but such as a few posts driven into the ground, and then wrapped together with the frail branches of trees, could give. Wretched habitations indeed! and utterly insufficient to prevent the torrents of rain, (for the rains in that region are not showers, but literally torrents that plow up the very ground) from penetrating these temporary tabernacles. Such substitutes, when the branches wither, are almost completely open at the sides. Some, who are able, cover them with blankets, or whatever else they can obtain, on the roof; others have them covered round about. This will not, however, prevent reptiles, such as snakes and lizards, from getting in. I saw a snake myself sucking a frog nigh my tent, but we killed it, and when it got a stroke on the head, it shot out its poisonous fangs. After this we grew more afraid of the venomous reptiles. We saw numbers of squirrels running about our beds; and we were frequently deprived of sleep from the unwelcome intrusions of oxen and cows, which, straying from their owners, came close to our tents, and we were much terrified, lest they should have pulled down our tabernacles about our ears. The swine would come to our very heads, and take away any thing they could find or see; and they seemed to be very fond of their own flesh, seizing what flesh meat we had, and running away with it in their mouths, so that we were obliged to pursue them, in order to recover it.

The above circumstances have been mentioned, merely to show the state of new settlers. Many of them who arrived first, got the best lots, as they had

the first choice, and if not pleased with it when viewed, Colonel Marshall still indulged them with more tickets for other lots till they were satisfied. They are all furnished with tickets for such townships as they choose to settle in, namely, Lanark, Dalhousie, Sherbrooke, and Ramsay. Those who come first, study very naturally to obtain the most eligible situations, and have, of consequence, the best chance for good lots. On this account the inferior or worst lots are left to those who follow. Their disadvantages are just in proportion to the time in which the emigrants successively arrive. In the first place, they have to go out more frequently to view the lots, which is attended with a great deal of hard toil, and with much expence.

The ground is measured out into lots of 100 acres each, and in every township the ground is divided into concessions or grants, and each concession is again subdivided into a proportionate number of lots. A post is fixed in the ground to mark the limit or boundary of each concession, both in front and rear. For this reason the most of those who go to view their lots, take a guide with them, and two or three go commonly together, which diminishes the expence to each individually, because they have to pay their guide five or six shillings every day that they are employed for the above purpose; which commonly occupies three days when they go out on a journey of this nature. The sooner they set out, the better, on account of the great distance which they have to travel through the woods. Each emigrant generally gets two lots to view, and if three set out together, there are 600 acres to be inspected. I thought that this toil would have almost finished me, and even stout young men were so completely worn out with the toil, that they could scarcely return home, and were afterwards confined to bed, and fevered, from the great fatigue and exhaustion

of bodily strength occasioned by excessive perspiration during the intense heats of the day, and from sleeping all night in the woods, exposed to the cold and heavy dews. All these circumstances combined, excessive bodily labour, prostration of strength from the intense heats and excessive sweating, and, finally, in perfect contrast to the excessive heat of the atmosphere during the day, the cold, damp, and unwholesome nocturnal dews, proved exceedingly detrimental to the constitutions of those who had just arrived, and who were utterly unaccustomed to, and wholly unprepared for, such a total change of physical circumstances. One of our companions, a young man, leaving a wife and family, died after such an excursion, in the course of a few days.

In addition to these difficulties, we had to encounter another, and that a very serious evil, especially to those who have never previously known or experienced it, namely, the mosquitoes. This is a very aggravating and distressing circumstance, as they tormented us both by day and night continually. The only remedy left to avoid this serious inconvenience, was the kindling of fires, which tended greatly to keep them away. Whenever they stung, it pierced through the skin. I have had my legs all over pierced with the fangs of these tormenting and mischievous insects, and from the effects of their bites, they seemed as if they had been covered all over with the small pox, and attended with an equal itch. The only cure was to bathe them in cold water, and rub them with salt. This I found to give relief. All have to encounter this evil in a greater or less degree, who go out to look land. As a great deal, if not the greater part of this is bad, the trouble and expence is proportionably great to those who arrive latest, as they have to go out more frequently.

A great many have not gotten lots to please them,

and the bad land is generally rocky and swampy, and in some of these swamps the trees have fallen across each other, which renders it difficult to get over them; and sometimes in endeavouring to step across them we fell into the mud, to the no small detriment of our legs. But these swampy places, however, if they could notwithstanding be drained, would eventually prove excellent land. Still, however, the soil is generally light and sandy. Some of it is composed of a dark sand, most of this latter description is thought to be the best land, in the opinion of those who have had most experience.

I have visited many farms of those emigrants who came out last year, and viewed their crops. They have generally a great deal of potatoes set, with Indian corn or maize. And some have wheat and barley. Their potatoes look well, and are of superior quality, being both good and dry. The Indian corn being sown late in the season, they admitted that they had but small hopes of its ever arriving at maturity. From this I inferred and said, that those who had barley and wheat sown for this year, were in a much better situation than other settlers. From this the reader may very easily conjecture the situation of the new settlers, till they get another crop out of the ground. I cannot but also pity such of my unfortunate countrymen, who have come hither in search of a transatlantic paradise, destitute of clothes and money; because there are 5 or 6 months annually, at an average, of severe frost and snow. Even those who took more precaution, and who were in circumstances sufficient for enabling them to do so, were not without their fears of a Canadian winter. That such fears are not groundless, is evident from the following disadvantages under which they lie.

In the first place, they are far from a market to sell their produce, the nearest being Kingston or Brockville, both of which are 60 miles distant at least by the



shortest road. The second disadvantage under which a new settler labours, is the scarcity of draught animals, such as horses and oxen, and their consequent high price, and his inability to purchase. He is therefore obliged to hire one from a driver, so that the expence of conveying his agricultural produce from one part of the province to another, or for the purpose of exportation, is equal in value to the original cost. The best method, in my opinion, for the new settlers, is to raise a breed of cattle. Many of the settlers have obtained cows. In this way, in the course of 4 or 5 years, a new settler may have a yoke of oxen. He may also rear a breed of sheep, with swine and poultry. A third great inconvenience is the scarcity of corn mills, and the great distance to which he has to send his grain to be grinded. There is one at New Perth, the nearest at present, and 14 miles distant from New Lanark, and double that distance from many new settlements. There are other mills erecting at New Lanark, and Dalhousie, but still these will be far distant from many a settler. There are good mill seats in many of the farms, and those who have the means, will be induced to erect them, for their own advantage and that of others. On this account, and in this way, the difficulties above mentioned will gradually diminish. There is no fear, in my opinion, of obtaining the comforts of life in abundance, provided that the new settler has acquired habits of diligence, persevering and patient labour, strength of mind sufficient to surmount the difficulties incident to the novelty of his situation, and to an uncleared country ; along with a constitution capable of accommodating itself to the extreme vicissitudes of temperature peculiar to an American climate. In this way, and by these means, they will gradually have all the means of subsistence at their command. They have the mapple tree, productive of a saccharine juice,

which, when well boiled and skimmed, yields excellent sugar. It is, in my opinion, equal to any sugar that I have tasted in my native country. The method employed is to make a number of troughs, by cutting large holes in a piece of timber, which serve to receive and hold the juice. Incisions are made in the tree, whence the juice flows out. It is then boiled at the same place where it is gathered, and run into moulds. Molasses and vinegar are also made out of the same saccharine matter. Different kinds of herbs are produced in the woods, which are gathered and used as substitutes for tea.

One of these species is denominated velvet tea, and abounds in marshy situations. Its leaves are green on the one side, and yellow on the other. There is another species called sanspareil, or unequalled. Another kind is called maiden hair. The inner bark of the mapple is likewise used in place of tea. A species of ever-green, is denominated winter green tea. Rasps and strawberries abound in the forest, with plums, all of which I have tasted, and all of which are excellent in their kinds. Their gooseberries are by no means equal to those of our country, being very small and prickly, though very delicious to the taste. I saw no apples in the forest, but I have seen some black currants of a very good quality; but all these kinds of fruits are to be found only in some parts of the woods. Fish are said to abound in all the streams that water this region. Those dwelling near the Mississippi (not the great river so called), and all the way down the banks to Dalhousie and Sherbrooke, may obtain as many as they choose. I have witnessed a great number caught with a boat in a very short time, and have been also informed that fowls abound here, but must at the same time confess that I never saw many. Those which most abound are pigeons, yet I have travelled a whole day in the woods

without seeing many, and the few which I saw shot by a good marksman, were so lean, that they were scarce worth shooting.

There are also wild geese and ducks, but they do not abound as in our country. Blackbirds are to be seen in the woods, but they have no song like those of Scotland. Indeed there are no feathered songsters of the groves, as at home, nor is the lark ever beheld warbling delightful melody as it ascends to the sky.—Your ears are never saluted whilst traversing the Canadian woods, with the delightful and varied notes of the winged choristers. No sound of music is ever heard there, but a melancholy death-like stillness reigns through the forests, except when they are agitated by the tempest or the storm.

It is dull travelling through the woods; nature seems as if dead; there are no signs of animated life. All these circumstances throw a damp and gloom over the mind of the traveller. What then must it be to dwell in these lifeless forests, where the early matins of the feathered choirs are never heard hymning their Creator's praise? There are stags, and some bears, but we never heard of the latter hurting any person, nor did I ever see any of these latter, but one at Quebec. None need therefore be under any alarming apprehensions for their personal safety, whilst travelling through the woods during the day, as it is in the night season only that the bear leaves his den.—When travellers are overtaken with the shades of night, they generally kindle a fire, which keeps them at a distance, and sometimes travellers climb up into a tree, and rest there all night, (if unable to kindle a fire,) for fear of the wild beasts. Cases of this nature frequently happen, when they have to travel far, particularly if they miss their way,—the only direction which a traveller has, being a cut in trees here and there. A young tree cut down

in this way, guides a traveller from one farm house to another ; and if there are settlers remaining there, they shew you the road. But if you come to a cleared place, and where the road, such as it is, ends, one is at a great loss to know where it recommences at the other end of the cleared land, from the inhabitants, in some cases, having deserted their stations. I have been consequently puzzled in this state to determine how to proceed, and have actually taken a wrong direction, and been obliged to retrace my steps for several miles, and stop at the first house I could find on my road, all night. After sitting some time, the goodman of the house would desire a girl to give me some of their bush tea, as they term it, which they drink without sugar ; but I had generally that article with me, which rendered this substitute pretty agreeable.—The settlers here have a mean appearance, very poor in their dress, their food, and their dwellings.

Their method of building their huts, or log-houses, is the following: They take the small logs, and cut them to certain lengths and breadths, and lay them one above another, notching them into each other at the four corners of angles. In this way they proceed till this substitute for a house is finished. The front wall is commonly made highest.—The method of roofing houses is this: They take the hollow trees, as there are many of these rotten internally, and split them through the midst, and lay them close together ; one is laid on every joint, with its mouth down, which is the hollow side, and the rain is thus received into the hollow of each side. They proceed thus till the roof is finished. Many of them are very roughly constructed, but a tradesman could make a very good job of the same materials, by jointing them together.—Others again cover their roofs with the bark of trees ; but in my judgment the other method is preferable.



The gaps in the walls must be closed or filled up with pieces of wood and clay. This, however, does not stand long, and they are not at all nice as to the method. The only light which many of them have, is by the door and a wide chimney. But whenever a farmer has it in his power, he builds one more durable and substantial, the logs being squared and laid one upon another. But the mode now most prevalent, both in town and country, is to build frame houses, and roof them the same way as we do at home, first sarking it, and then in place of slates, take cuttings of clean fir, eighteen inches long, and split them up to the thickness of  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch in the one end, and very thin and tapering in the other; these they call shingles. Some dress them well with the plane, and others with a drawing knife; but they are nailed on in the same manner as slates, and when properly done and painted blue, they look like slates. They finish the walls of their houses, by dressing boards of wood six or seven inches broad, and  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths thick, and thus covering the walls with them, the one over-lapping the other. All their window frames are fixed before they put on this dressing. Their houses are generally painted white, their window shutters green. They look well when finished and painted as above described.

The trees of the forests are of different diameters, varying from four inches to four feet. The under wood is easily cut down. Like young trees, a stroke or two with the axe will do the business. A man can level an acre of them in eight or ten days. After this is done, the trees are again cut in lengths of 12 feet each; other trees of a larger size, and greater diameter, must be cut in shorter lengths, in order to make them lighter, as this is the heaviest part of the toil, in rolling them together, and burning them; this requires the aid of neighbours, if you have any.

In general the settlers mutually help each other, and study to take the driest days to fire the wood, which, when it is withered, spreads rapidly over the surface, and consumes all the rotten leaves. The roots and part of the stocks of the trees, generally to about the height of 3 feet, are left standing in the ground until they rot. Were they to dig them up, they would injure the soil, it being generally a light sand. The ground needs little ploughing the first year, it being sufficient for the purpose of sowing or planting, if the surface is slightly raised. The ploughs they use are different from ours; one of them has a single upright stilt, which is employed as more convenient for getting round the roots of the trees; the other has two stilts, but the stock and culter are much slighter than those used in this country. In this manner this ground is prepared for sowing. The potatoes are set in a way similar to that practised at home, although not so regularly. Their Indian corn is sown in drills, dropping two or three pickles together in the straight line of the drill, at a distance of 12 inches, and 3 feet in breadth. This allows them to raise the earth about the stalks, which are very strong and tall, and require plenty of air, as the Indian corn springs from the bottom of the cane or reed, very little above the surface of the ground. This plant requires a great deal of nourishment, as the stalks are very tender and easily hurt by the frost. It has, however, a good covering of green leaves, and the pickles do not appear like any other grain. The farmers frequently take the Indian corn before it is ripe, and boil it in its natural state, using it as bread to tea. I have taken it beat down, and used it with milk, which, in this way, is very palatable.

Good pease are to be met with in several farms, but they are very rare in the new settlements. Very few

apply themselves to gardening, and they are by no means, even the best of them, to be compared to our Scottish gardens. They are chiefly kitchen gardens. All who wish to go there, must take with them a large quantity of all the various kinds of such garden seeds as are used in our country, as they are not to be got there, and there is little reason to doubt of their thriving in that climate, if the art of horticulture is properly understood and applied, and the ground skilfully chosen and prepared for that purpose. Flowers of various and beautiful colours abound in the forests, and many of these exotics have been transplanted to our own country, and naturalized to the soil. Pumpkins grow to a large size. The branch protrudes a good way from the stalk, rests on the ground, and is very beautiful. They resemble turnips in taste. Some make pies of them, and feed their swine with them also. Large water melons, of a fine quality, and affording to the thirsty traveller a cool and delightful beverage, along with cucumbers, and a great many fruits of a similar kind, grow here.

Those who obtain good lots, and are industrious in cultivating them, will be amply rewarded for their toil, and enjoy all the necessaries of subsistence within their own grounds. But still the great drawback to all these prospective blessings, is the want of clothes; and none ought to come here but such as are well able to supply themselves with a sufficiency of that necessary article for 4 or 5 years at least. In the course of that time, they may raise flax and breed sheep, which will produce wool that may be manufactured for family use, and thus their difficulties in that respect may be greatly removed. But a family going thither, poor, naked, and unfurnished with necessary clothing suited to that rigorous climate, and without the means of obtaining it, are really to be pitied indeed. Provisions

are dear, and as long as they are obliged to buy, it will take all the money they have to support them.

A barrel of flour is not less than 7 dollars at New Lanark ; pork 6d. beef  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 5d. per pound, mutton nearly the same, all English weight. Butter is 1s. per pound, same standard. Eggs 1s. per dozen, a hen 15d. a chicken 7d. a good cow 20 or 22 dollars, and a farm horse from L.7 to L.10 sterling. The quartern loaf is 11d. There are two bakers at New Lanark, who are kept constantly baking, to supply the wants of the great number of emigrants daily passing those places to their intended settlements.

Temporary huts must be built by them, in order to shelter their families, (as it is impossible during the summer season to transport their baggage, from the total want of made roads) until the frost and snow come on, when the surface of the ground being quite hard and dry, they are then enabled to transport them on sledges, which run with great velocity over the snow. Till then, they must carry all their provisions and other necessaries on their back. This is a very hard task indeed, one to which the great body of emigrants are totally unaccustomed, of which they have had hitherto no experience, and which many of them are wholly inadequate to perform, and one which I could not undertake. I have seen the settlers of the preceding year coming to New Lanark for their provisions, and carrying them to their distant homes in the way above mentioned, and this all of them will have to do till the means of subsistence are wholly within themselves. The only houses, or what have the appearance of them, in New Lanark, are those belonging to store-keepers. The river runsthrough the centre of the town, and has a bridge across it. Its banks are high and, slopping, and, at a small distance back, is very hilly and stony.

There are many here who have not as yet got any



land. But it is in contemplation to measure out new townships. Government gives them every encouragement. Many are lying here sick, and have few cordials to support them.

They want one great cordial,—one of inestimable value in the time of distress,—and that is the gospel. But I am sorry to say, that this is a cordial which few seem to relish or desire. Few care for the gospel here. To them it is an unknown sound. Many who come here know not its value, and cannot therefore be expected to give it a hearty welcome. There are, however, many who have come here, who both know its power and consolation. I hope their christian brethren will feel it to be their duty to send them ministers. Many of them are serious people, and settled together, as far as circumstances would permit, in one place. But they who went out last, could not obtain this privilege so easily, as there were so many bad lots. Hence they were necessitated to take such lots as suited them, here and there, in the best way they could. All this inconveniency may be nevertheless overruled for good to those around them. By their constancy in conduct and profession, they may eventually become a blessing to their irreligious and careless neighbours. It is certainly desirable to have a pious neighbour, to remind one of the weekly return of the Christian Sabbath, for some here forget its recurrence. I met with one on Sabbath day, and we began to converse about it, when to his no small surprise he was informed that it was the Sabbath day. Is this the Sabbath? he exclaimed, and acknowledged he had forgotten it. He said that it was not at all like a Sabbath with them, for they come in with their waggons full, and transact all their business on the Lord's day.

When journeying, they will neither rest themselves

nor allow their beasts to rest. I am sorry to say that so little respect is paid to the Sabbath here, and must state an accident which happened in the course of my journey. Sailing a little late on a Saturday night in a steam boat, I landed at the end of my voyage, and stopped all the next day, till Monday morning. Something having gone wrong with the boiler, the engineer and others began to mend it, and continued repairing it all Sabbath day, and, after finishing their job, went ashore, and commenced hard drinking, which they continued till they got quite intoxicated. Thus one sin leads the way to another. As the engineer was returning to the boat, he fell into the river and was drowned. I saw his corpse got on Monday morning. His name was Bruce.

The price of provisions varies in different towns. In Prescott, the quartern loaf is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.; the butter 1s.; beef 4d.; pork 6d.; barrel of flour 17s. 6d.: At Montreal the quartern loaf is 6d.; barrel of flour 19s.; (the fine flour is inspected) 20s. superfine; butter 1s. beef 5d. and 6d.; mutton much the same. Legs of lamb vary from 16d. to 2s. cheese  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound, all English weight; eggs 1s. per dozen; beef is very cheap here in winter. The Americans from the northern States bordering on Canada, bring it in hard frozen, and sell it as  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound, and 2d. the very best of it. They bring in their milk frozen like cheese in bags, and come in here, as I am told, on sledges, from a distance of 150 miles. They run with great velocity. Money is said to be very scarce in the United States, and that may perhaps be the cause why they sell their beef so cheap. Every kind of liquor is cheap. At Montreal, rum brings 3s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 6d. and 5s. per gallon. Hollands of the very best quality 6s. per gallon; wine made in the United

States 10½d. and 1s. per bottle; port wine 2s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. per bottle.

In Quebec, the price of spirituous liquors and provisions is much the same as at Montreal. As to other articles there is very little difference. The quartern loaf is 5½d.

A market is held every day of the week in Montreal. There are two market places there, and two also in Quebec, one in the lower town, and one in the upper town, each fronting a Roman Catholic chapel. The market people disperse on Sabbath at eleven o'clock, just at the time when the people are going to church, and on the week days they are over by mid-day. The beef stands then all shut up.—The farmers arrive here in great numbers very early in the morning, many of them from a considerable distance. Their horses are but small, yet very spirited. It is the practice to fix a number of bells to the harness; and wishing to learn the reason of this custom, I was informed, that they were obliged to use them, because they run so furiously with their sledges when the country is covered with snow, that passengers may be warned of their danger, particularly about towns.

Both in Quebec and Montreal, trade is very dull. Having had occasion to converse with several merchants and master tailors, I was informed that their work was very badly paid, and the wages of the journeymen tailors very low, being below a dollar per day. Journeymen wrights are also very ill paid. I knew two who wrought in Montreal for twelve months, and at the end of that period, had L.20 sterling due to each of them, and could not get a farthing of it. Having also conversed with several master bakers, who had resided there for six years, they said that business was much worse than it had been

for some time previous. The journeymen bakers told me the same tale, and all of them wished to return to their own country as soon as possible. They do not like the long cold winter which reigns, and which is the more dull, as there is little business transacted in that season.

During my stay in Montreal, I was informed by a settler, who had taken land in a new settlement 30 miles above Montreal, named New Glasgow,—that the land here appeared very good and void of stones. At this place settlers possess great advantages, in being near to a market; and any person can get land here, for a very small sum yearly. I have seen good land round about Montreal, and down the river St. Laurence to Quebec; also some very fine green fields—the most pleasant I ever beheld. On the opposite side of Quebec, the north-west side of the St. Laurence, it has a fine appearance, being rising ground, and all cleared for a great distance back. This place is closely inhabited, and has all the houses painted white. Opposite to this on the south side of the river, it is also rising ground, about 2 miles back, and is cleared about a quarter of a mile: It is also cleared a good distance down by the St. Laurence. The houses here are also very close to one another, as also the churches. The inhabitants, chiefly French, profess the Roman Catholic religion. The houses along the banks of the river have a fine appearance, being all painted white. This far down the river there is little of it cleared; on the north-side, spots here and there are cleared. Here are different islands, and the ground appears not so good.

I will now proceed to give an account to the reader of Prince Edward's Island, according to information; and I think it is good; and I wish to point out the different bays; to make the reader acquainted



with the situation, extent, general appearance, as well as the particular places worth mentioning upon the island. It lies near the southern boundaries of the Gulph of St Lawrence, between 46 and 47 deg. north latitude, and 61 and 64 west longitude; surrounded by that gulph on all sides, with Newfoundland to the north east, Cape Breton on the east, Nova Scotia on the South, New Brunswick and Mirimachi to the west, and the Bay of Chaleur and Lower Canada to the north west. It is between 117 and 120 miles long; the average breadth may be about 30 miles, but in this respect it is very irregular; it is narrow at both ends. The soil of the whole island has been thrown up by water, it is therefore very fine, and nearly all of one kind and quality, and is laid upon a bottom of red soft freestone, which, in some parts on the shores, rises no higher than the level of the sea, and in other parts not so high; but where it does rise to a considerable height on the shores, it is so soft and loose in its contexture, that the frost and tide are wasting it in exposed situations considerably. The soil is 3 or 4 feet deep, to be observed in the banks round the shores, and in many parts it is 10 or 12 feet deep. The land is in general low and level, but there is little of it a dead level, except the marshes on the shores or in the interior: these are all moss, and where the salt water does not come near them, it is believed they will furnish excellent peat or turf for the fire, when the wood is all burnt. I said, the land is in general low, yet there are gentle rising grounds, but no high hills—none of it so steep as to render ploughing inconvenient, both up bank as well as down. From this you will learn that the whole island might be cultivated if the wood were destroyed. Except the marshes, the land is generally dry, with no rock near the surface, and in few parts even loose stones. On

the south-east side of the island the sea has receded from the land a good way, where a large sand ridge is thrown up, and a long lake is formed upon the back of it, where the tide comes and goes by an entrance a considerable way to the south-west. This is called East Lake ; another lake to the west of this, supplied with the flowing tide at the same inlet, is called West Lake. The land bordering on these lakes is good, and lately settled. From Perthshire the scene is beautiful and romantic, but it lies far from market ; the roads are ill opened up, and there is no good harbour for shipping.

After we leave these lakes, the land is thinly settled. The next place is called Colville Bay : the French are settlers here. The next bay to this is Rollo Bay, also settled with French. The next is Fortune Bay, a beautiful settlement with a good deal of clear land on it, and a number of schooners belonging to it that trade to Newfoundland, Halifax, &c. There are several other bays along the coast here, called Eglinton Cove, Howe Bay, Spry Cove, Broughton Bay, and River or Grand River. They are mostly settled with Roman Catholics. There is excellent herring fishing in the month of May here, and the people attend from considerable distances with their nets to catch them. The next place we come to is Cardigan Bay or Three Rivers ; this is the best harbour upon the island ; it has the greatest depth of water, easiest of entrance, the best shelter, earliest open in the spring, and latest in shutting in the fall or winter. One of the three principal towns projected by Government, called George Town, is intended to stand here, but no man of property and enterprise has yet pitched his tent here, so as to give the town and trade of the port a beginning, although it is certainly the most eligible situation upon the island ; a small house or two is all that it can yet boast of. To

the west of this, about 12 miles, is Murray Harbour, which may be entered, it is said, by vessels of nearly 300 tons burthen, at high water. This is a very pleasant, thriving, and comfortable settlement. We have now arrived at the broadest part of the island, so that from the shore, a little west from Murray Harbour, at a place called white sands, across the island to Savage Harbour on the north shore, it is about 35 miles wide or more. The next place we arrive at is Wood's Island. There are several miles of excellent front land unsettled. Passing Wood's Island, we come to Belle Creek, Flat River, Jenyn's River or Pinnet, that runs out into the gulph in a westerly direction, called Point Prim. On the north side of this, a large bay, called Oruell Bay, runs into the land a long way. On the south side of it lies the settlement of Belfast, the settlers Highlanders, and mostly protestants. With this Bay, Pounal and Hillsborough Bay, all connect. At the head of Hillsborough Bay, we enter the river of the same name and the Harbour of Charlotte Town. The tide flows up this river in a north-easterly direction for nearly twenty four miles. On the north-west side of this river, about four miles above its junction with the bay of the same name, stands the beautiful town of Charlotte Town, with its streets all regularly laid out. The principal streets running from the river side are eighty, and the cross streets forty feet in breadth, there is a large square in the middle of the town, where the court house, the high church, and market house stand with plenty of open ground. The houses are all of wood, and those that are well done up and painted look very elegant. Brick would be much better to build with. Here is an opening for brick-makers, for there is only one on the island. There are few settlers till we come to a place called Disabble, then to Crappo,

where small vessels load with timber. These are both new settlements, but likely to improve rapidly, as the proprietor is said to be liberal, and the agent active and anxious to make great improvements. A little to the west of this is Tryon River, a very small river, but the prettiest settlement upon the island. There are excellent marshes on each side of it; a long way the clearances are large and regular, the arable land rising gently behind the marshes, and both dry and convenient for all the purposes of agriculture. The island is beginning to narrow much as we proceed a little farther to the west. A large bay, called Halifax Bay, intersects the island on the southern side, and Richmond Bay on the north, so that the island is not more than four or five miles in breadth; West Cape half way down it, and Cape Wolf at the bottom. But it is all unsettled here, as it is all round the west end of the island. We next come to Holland Bay; the next is Richmond Bay, which is very large and spacious, with good anchorage for ships of heavy burthen, but the water is often far from the shore; on the eastern side of this bay lies Malpeque or Prince Town, intended as the third county town on the island, though not a single house of it has hitherto been built. The lands round it were long since settled.

The next harbour we arrive at is New London, where schooners can enter. The land here is good, and there are large clearances. The next is Great Rastico, or Harris Bay, which is said to admit only small fishing schooners. The next settlements are Brackly Point, and little Rastico, or Cove Head, which are old settlements. The harbour will admit only small schooners. To the east of this a little way we come to Tracad, or Bedford Bay. This is also an old settlement, mostly peopled with Roman Catholics. No large vessels can enter here, and the bay



runs so far in land as to reach within three or four miles of Hillsborough river, which empties itself below Charlotte Town on the south side of the island.

We have now arrived at the broadest part of the island. On the northern shore, a little to the west, we come to the bottom of St Peter's Bay, which runs in a slanting easterly direction, about ten miles into the country. 'This was the principal sea-port at the time the French were masters of the island; but the entrance has now become shallow and difficult, and will only admit small craft. From the entrance of this bay, to Surveyor's Inlet, or North Lake, it is very near East Point, a distance of from 35 to 40 miles—There is no place of shelter for vessels of any kind whatever. The shore is settled all the way, and the land cleared back to a considerable distance. The settlers here are Highlanders, from Long Island, Roman Catholics. This quarter of the island has no market near it in the interior, and no harbour to load their produce for exportation.

I have now given to the reader a glance round the whole island. The above inlet is very near East Point, from whence I set out round its shores. It may be useful to intending emigrants, in enabling them to take their passage to the right port, when they have previously fixed on the spot where they intend to settle. To be well advised in this point may save much expense and trouble, after landing upon the island.

They have no green feeding for their cattle in winter, for they never think of giving them a service of potatoes; and from the poor way in which their cattle are fed during winter, some of them die of weakness. New settlers, unless they get marsh hay along with their farms at first, get slowly on, in keeping

stock. The only next is upland hay, and mown till it is entirely done out. It may be asked, how shall we get clothing? Those who bring a bad supply with them, find this a very difficult matter for several years after settling here. They may have plenty of flax immediately, but wool they cannot commend. They must have upland hay to feed their sheep over winter, before they can keep any; and the old settlers are wearing home-spun cloth, both men and women and excellent cloth it is. The rents in general are only from five pounds to seven pounds ten shillings per hundred acres and it is only at the end of six or seven years after entry that they arrive at so much.—About the first of November drizzling rains come on, and then the cold winds begin to blow, with sleety showers. About the beginning of December the frost becomes more serious, very cold and penetrating—the snow now begins to descend until it measures 2 and 3 feet in depth. The atmosphere then became clear and calm, but on the calmest day the trees were cracking with the strength of the frost. The ears are in danger of being frost-bitten, if not covered over, and even sometimes the nose and cheeks. Persons have been known to lose their toes, by riding on horseback, or walking through the snow with wet feet. The frost here strikes upon the skin like fire, and causes a painful sensation, like that felt upon application of a blistering plaster,—yet it does not go through the body nor affect the lungs like the cold in Britain. The air is so pure, so dry, and bracing, that if the body is kept in motion, the skin covered, and the feet dry, there is little to be dreaded from the greatest frost here.

I stopt nine days in Quebec, and attended divine worship in the Scots church on the first Sabbath, and on the second I visited the English church in the afternoon. I was much surprised to see so few people attending the English service ; but was highly gratified to find so many of my countrymen attending public worship in the Scots church, which was well filled, and made me almost forget that I was in a foreign land. The people esteem their pastor very highly, and he, I think, preaches the gospel. Their collections are made after the old plan in this country ; the elders going along the pews to receive the offerings of the people before dismissal. There are also in Quebec, a methodist chapel and several Roman Catholic churches. The roofs of the churches, and most of the principal houses, are covered with tin, cut into pieces about the size of our slates, the edges of which are very neatly folded into each other, and when the sun shines, the glittering roofs have a very fine effect. There are no town clocks, but they have large bells, and no less than four in one steeple.— There are several nunneries in the town, the inmates of which are very decently dressed with a long wide black gown.

During the summer season, a considerable number of Indians are to be seen in Montreal. Some of them come from a considerable distance up the country, and place their tents on the river side. They are very ingenious, and their women especially very neat handed. They have for sale a variety of fancy articles, such as bags indented round the bottom with pieces of bark, and otherwise ornamented with sewing, or the figure of an Indian, as well as shoes, the leather of which they tan, and ornament with sewing also on the upper part of the foot.

The older Indian women are generally dressed with an English half blanket wrapped about them, black leggings, and black hat; whilst the younger generally wear a black mantle, hat and leggings, with large gold rings and tassels in their ears. The men are dressed much the same as the other people, only that they have a sash of various colours, and sometimes ornamented with beads, &c. wrapped round the middle part of their bodies. The manner which the Indian women carry their children, is singular—they place the back of the child to theirs, and buckling it round them, in this way pass along with considerable ease. The Indians are very peaceable neighbours, unless when intoxicated, when they become very outrageous, for which reason I was informed that store-keepers are prohibited from selling them liquor.

Reader, I have now approached the close of my narrative, and what has been above stated is truth. I have been a sufferer, I witnessed the sufferings of my fellow travellers, and convinced that it was my duty to publish what I saw and felt in myself and others, I leave it to every man to judge for himself, wishing that what is here stated, may prove the means of saving many lives and much property.

FINIS.